

USSN 10/713,769
Substitute Second Preliminary Amendment
January 24, 2005
Page 2 of 9

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-52. (Cancelled).

53. (New) A footwear structure comprising:

an outsole having a top surface;

an upper, said upper being separate from said outsole and being secured to said outsole to at least partially define a cavity for receiving a foot; and

a midsole disposed within said cavity and readily removable from said cavity, said midsole having a bottom surface disposed above said top surface of said outsole; said top surface of said outsole having an arched shank interlock portion which mates with a corresponding arched shank interlock portion in said bottom surface of said midsole, whereby interlocking of said shank interlock portions of said outsole and said midsole resists motion of said midsole relative to said outsole.

54. (New) A footwear structure according to claim 53, wherein said outsole has a peripheral wall extending from the periphery of said top surface, and wherein said upper is secured to said peripheral wall.

55. (New) A footwear structure according to claim 53, wherein said upper has a bottom surface with an arched portion which mates with said arched shank interlock portion of said top surface of said outsole.

USSN 10/713,769
Substitute Second Preliminary Amendment
January 24, 2005
Page 3 of 9

56. (New) A footwear structure according to claim 53, wherein said upper has an interior surface and said midsole has a sidewall portion, said midsole being removably disposed in said cavity above said outsole with said sidewall portion adjacent said interior surface of said upper.

57. (New) A footwear structure according to claim 56, wherein said interior surface of said upper has a bottom portion and an exterior surface of said upper has a bottom portion, said bottom portion of said exterior surface being disposed against said top surface of said outsole, and said bottom surface of said midsole being removably disposed against said bottom portion of said interior surface of said upper.

58. (New) A footwear structure according to claim 53, said structure further comprising a covering material secured to a top surface of said midsole.

59. (New) A footwear structure according to claim 53, wherein said midsole further includes portions defining a heel cavity in said bottom surface.

60. (New) A footwear structure according to claim 53, wherein said structure further comprises a shank component disposed between a bottom surface of said outsole and a top surface of said midsole.

USSN 10/713,769
Substitute Second Preliminary Amendment
January 24, 2005
Page 4 of 9

61. (New) A footwear structure according to claim 60, wherein said shank component includes a wall extending upward relative to a top surface of said shank component.
62. (New) A footwear structure according to claim 61, wherein at least a portion of said wall extends downward relative to a bottom surface of said shank component.
63. (New) A footwear structure according to claim 61, wherein said wall extends along at least a portion of the perimeter of said shank component.
64. (New) A footwear structure according to claim 60, wherein said shank component comprises a top surface which corresponds and mates with said shank interlock portion in said bottom surface of said midsole and a bottom surface which corresponds and mates with said shank interlock portion in said outsole, and wherein said shank component is disposed between said bottom surface of said midsole and said top surface of said outsole.
65. (New) A footwear structure according to claim 60, wherein said shank component is disposed against a bottom surface of said upper.

USSN 10/713,769
Substitute Second Preliminary Amendment
January 24, 2005
Page 5 of 9

66. (New) A footwear structure according to claim 53, wherein a bottom of said upper is disposed between said midsole and said outsole.

67. (New) A footwear structure according to claim 66, wherein said bottom of said upper extends along an entire length and width of said midsole.

68. (New) A footwear structure according to claim 66, wherein said bottom of said upper comprises a lasting insole secured to a top portion of said upper.

69. (New) A footwear structure according to claim 53, wherein said cavity is defined by said upper and said outsole.

70. (New) A footwear structure according to claim 53, wherein said arched shank interlock portion of said outsole comprises a continuous arc.

USSN 10/713,769
Substitute Second Preliminary Amendment
January 24, 2005
Page 6 of 9

71. (New) A method of forming a footwear structure comprising:

providing an outsole having a top surface with an arched shank interlock portion formed therein;

providing an upper having an upper arched shank interlock portion, said upper being separate from said outsole;

securing said upper arched shank interlock portion to said arched shank interlock portion of said top surface of said outsole, said upper at least partially defining a cavity for receiving a foot;

providing a midsole having a bottom surface with an arched shank interlock portion formed therein which mates with said arched shank interlock portion formed in said top surface of said outsole; and

positioning said midsole in said cavity to be readily removable from said cavity with said midsole bottom surface above said outsole top surface for interlocking said shank interlock portions of said outsole and said midsole to resist motion of said midsole relative to said outsole.

72. (New) A method according to claim 71, wherein said upper has an interior surface and said midsole has a sidewall portion, said midsole being removably disposed above said outsole with said sidewall portion adjacent said interior surface of said upper.

USSN 10/713,769
Substitute Second Preliminary Amendment
January 24, 2005
Page 7 of 9

73. (New) A method according to claim 72, wherein said interior surface of said upper has a bottom portion and an exterior surface of said upper has a bottom portion, said bottom portion of said exterior surface being disposed against said top surface of said outsole, and said bottom surface of said midsole being removably disposed against said bottom portion of said interior surface of said upper.

74. (New) A method according to claim 71, wherein a bottom of said upper is disposed between said midsole and said outsole.

75. (New) A method according to claim 74, wherein said bottom of said upper extends along an entire length and width of said midsole.

76. (New) A method according to claim 74, wherein said bottom of said upper comprises a lasting insole secured to a top portion of said upper.

77. (New) A method to claim 71, wherein said method further comprises:
providing shank component; and
positioning said shank component between a top surface of said midsole and a bottom surface of said outsole.

78. (New) A method according to claim 77, wherein said shank component includes a wall extending upward relative to a top surface of said shank component.

USSN 10/713,769
Substitute Second Preliminary Amendment
January 24, 2005
Page 8 of 9

79. (New) A method according to claim 78, wherein at least a portion of said wall extends downward relative to a bottom surface of said shank component.

80. (New) A method according to claim 78, wherein said wall extends along at least a portion of the perimeter of said shank component.

81. (New) A method according to claim 77, wherein said shank component has a top surface which corresponds and mates with said shank interlock portion in said bottom surface of said midsole and a bottom surface which corresponds and mates with said shank interlock portion in said outsole.